



# Installing A Main Zipper In Your Patagonia Down Jacket

Don't let a blown-out front zipper keep you from the warmth of your down jacket. This guide will walk you through the steps necessary to install a new main zip in a Patagonia down jacket.

Written By: Brittany McCrigler



## INTRODUCTION

This guide will walk you through the process of installing a zipper in your Patagonia down jacket. This is a tough repair and we recommend you have some sewing experience. For replacement parts or further assistance, contact [Patagonia Customer Service](#).



### TOOLS:

- [Measuring Tape](#) (1)
- [Utility Scissors](#) (1)
- [Seam Ripper](#) (1)
- [Sewing Machine](#) (1)
- [Tailor's Chalk](#) (1)
- [End Nippers](#) (1)
- [Large Needle Nose Pliers](#) (1)
- [Sewing Pins](#) (1)
- [Fabric Scissors](#) (1)



### PARTS:

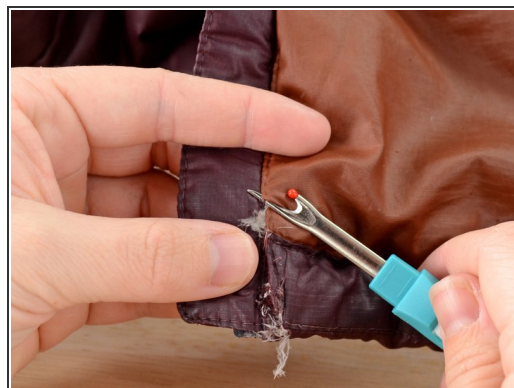
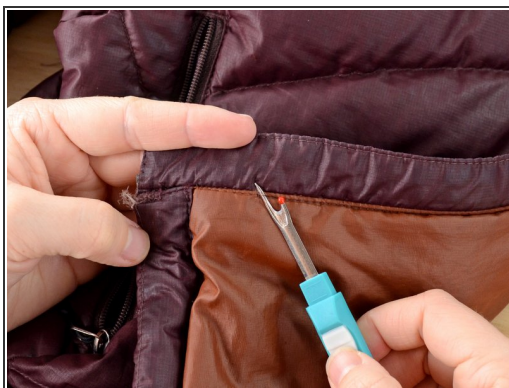
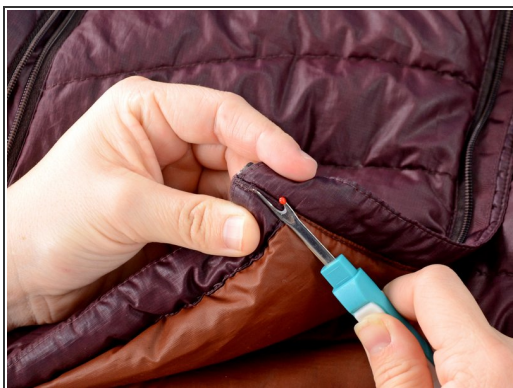
- [Replacement zipper](#) (1)

## Step 1 — Main Zipper



- Unzip the jacket and fold back the bottom corner.
- Identify the start of the seam that is holding the zipper in place.

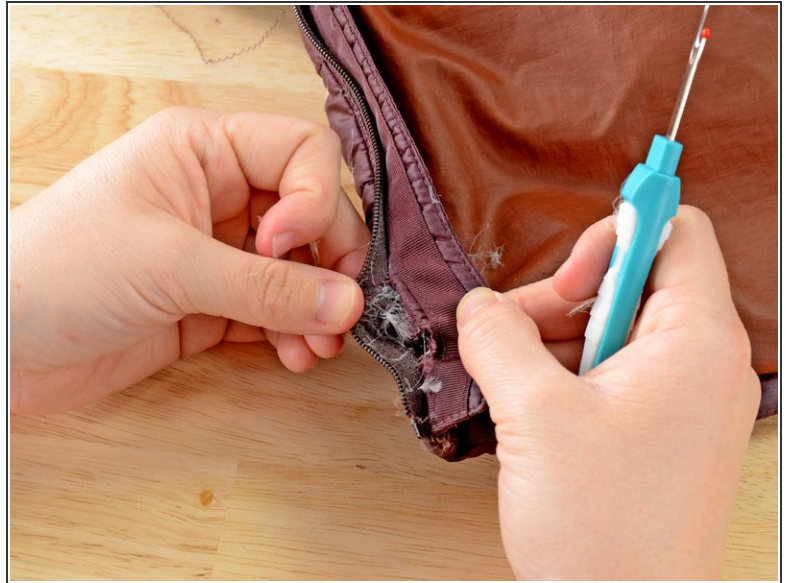
## Step 2



- Using a seam ripper, gently remove the stitches on the inside of the zipper.

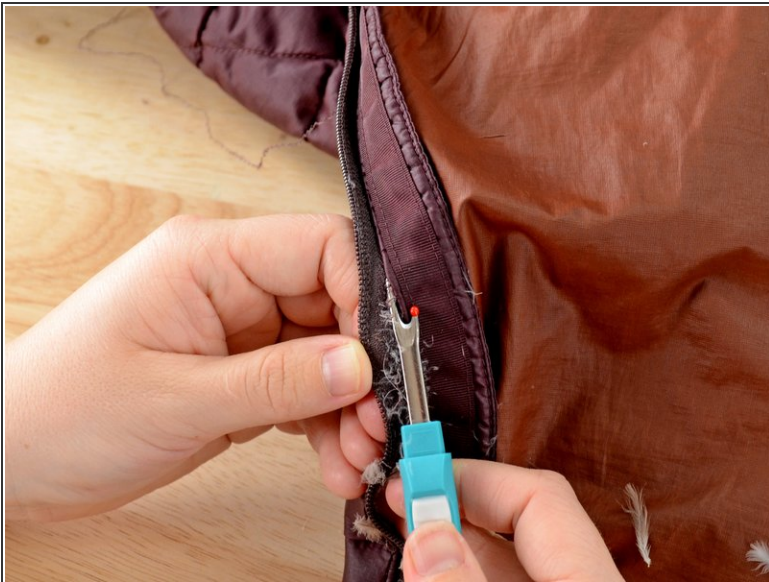
⚠ Be careful not to accidentally puncture or tear the jacket.

### Step 3



- Bend the zipper teeth away from the zipper webbing to make it easier to reach the stitches that hold the zipper and webbing together.
- Using the seam ripper, gently rip the seam between the zipper and zipper webbing.

### Step 4



- Continue ripping the seam holding the zipper to the webbing until you come to the top of the seam.

## Step 5



- When you come to the fold in the zipper webbing, insert the seam ripper between the two layers of webbing, and gently pull the stitches out.

## Step 6



- The zipper should now be free from the jacket and can be discarded.

## Step 7



- Identify where the zipper flap is still sewn into the jacket. Use the seam ripper to free the zipper flap from the jacket. The yellow rectangle in the photos above will help you identify the zipper flap.

⚠ Be careful not to damage the jacket with the seam ripper as you free the webbing.

## Step 8



- Lay the jacket flat and measure from the base of the zipper to the collar, along the seam you just removed. In our case we measured 27 inches.

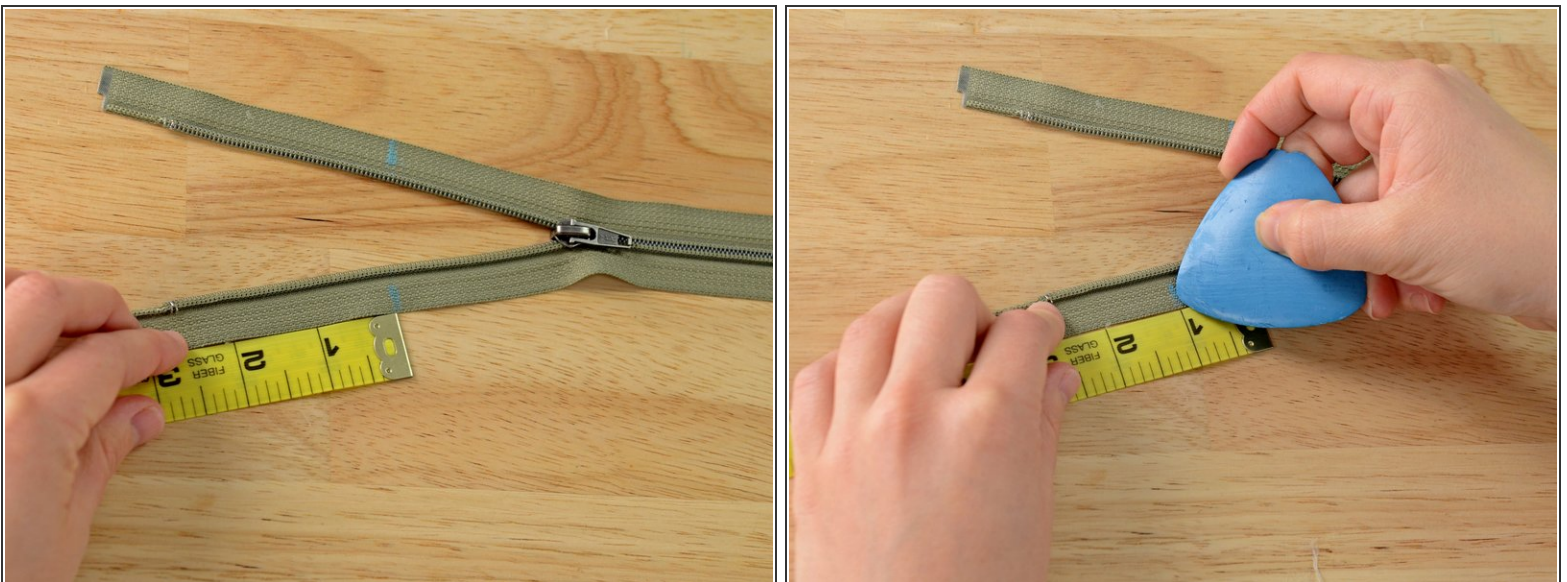
ⓘ The jacket should be flat, so you get an accurate measurement.

## Step 9



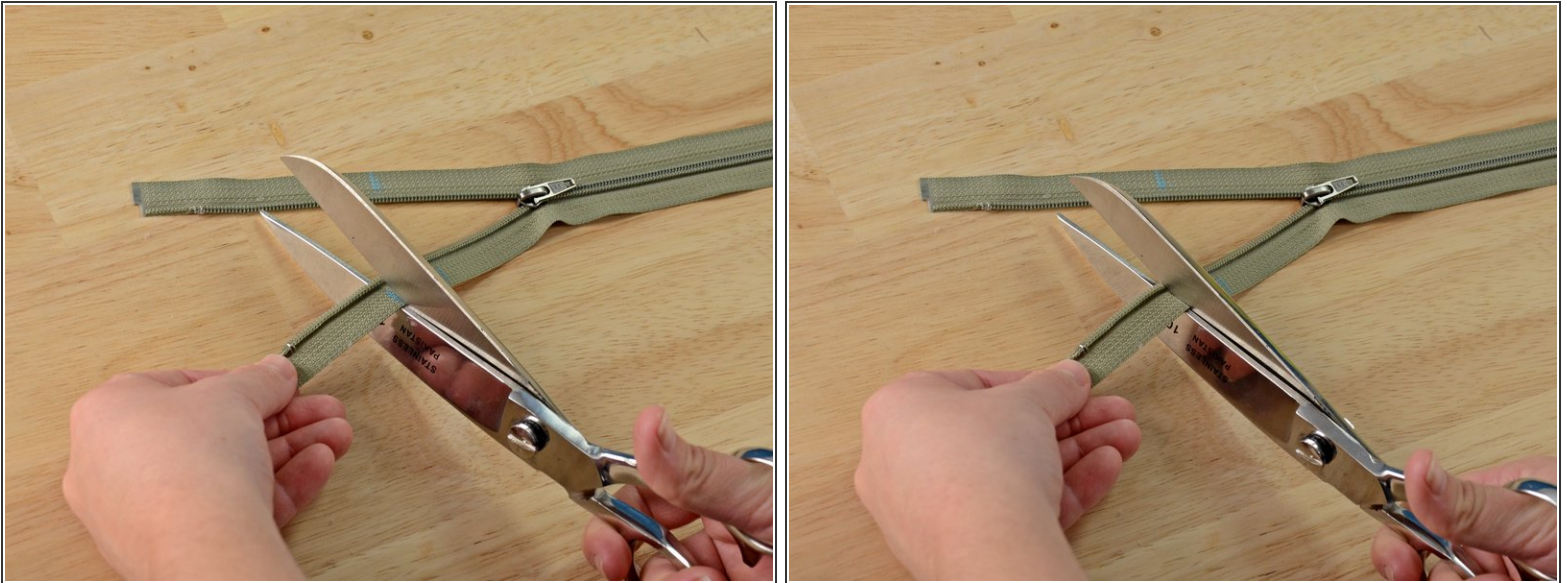
- Lay out your new zipper on a flat surface and use the measurement you recorded in the step above, starting from the zipper box, or the bottom of the zipper.
- Mark the measurement with tailor's chalk.
- Pull the zipper slider back behind the mark you just made.

## Step 10



- Measure one inch beyond where you just marked and make a second mark with tailor's chalk.

## Step 11



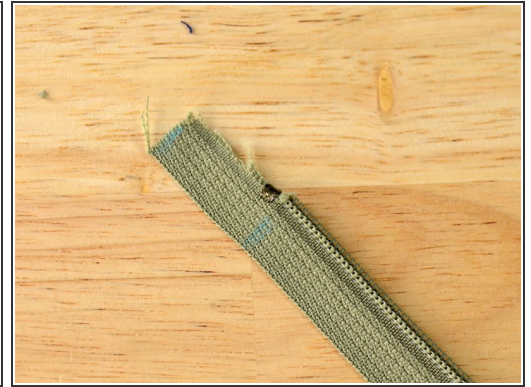
- Cut the zipper between the teeth at the second mark you made.

## Step 12



- Use end nipper pliers to remove the teeth of the zipper between the two marks.
- Use needle-nose pliers to remove all the leftover bits of the teeth from the zipper.

## Step 13



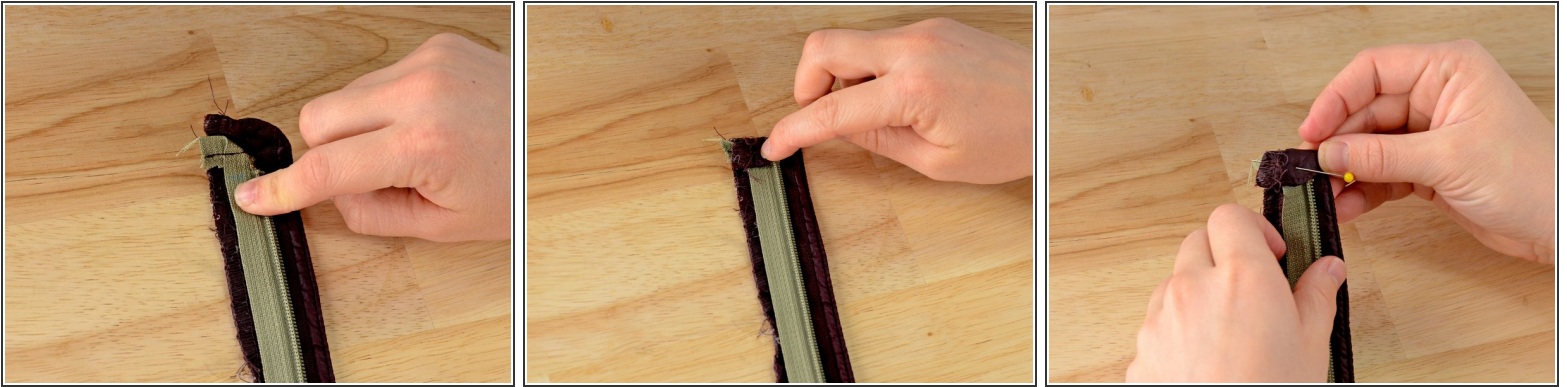
- Take a zipper stop and align it, posts down, just beyond the last remaining zipper tooth.
- Crimp the zipper stop onto the zipper using pliers.

## Step 14



- Fold the excess zipper tape away from the teeth at a slight angle.
- Sew the toothless end of the zipper down, backstitching to hold it in place.

## Step 15



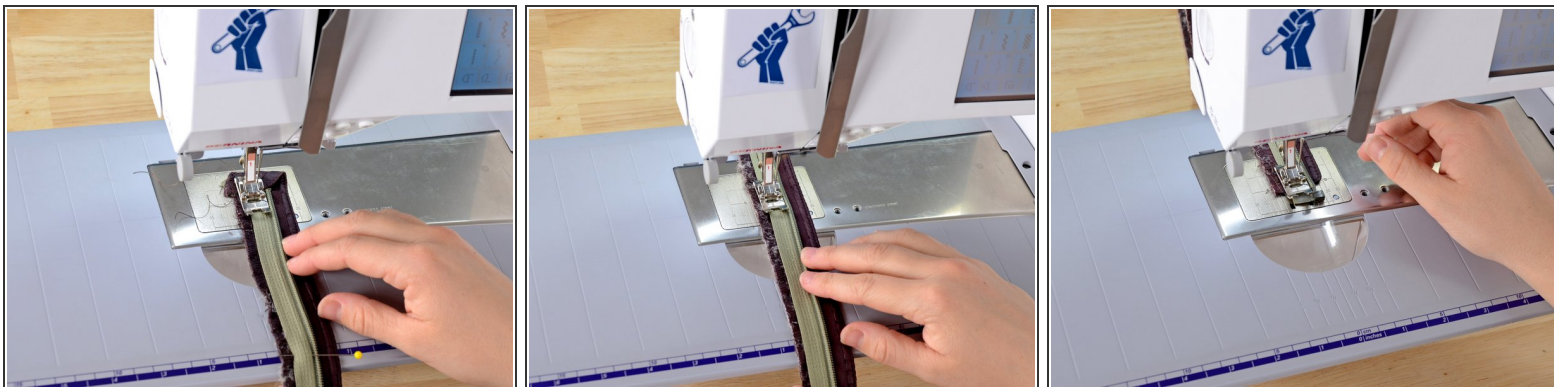
- Align the toothless edge of the zipper with the inside serged edge of the zipper webbing.
- ⓘ The serged edge is the one with the zig-zag stitching.
- Fold the top of the webbing down over the sewn zipper tape.
- ⓘ You can pin the zipper and webbing in place for more stability.

## Step 16



- Align the zipper and webbing in the sewing machine so that the zipper teeth are along the edge of the presser foot.
- Sew a few stitches, removing pins before you come to them.

## Step 17



- Sew along the edge of the zipper teeth, making sure that the zipper and webbing stay aligned.

## Step 18



- Reinsert the zipper and webbing into the jacket, aligning the edge of the jacket fabric with the zipper teeth.

## Step 19



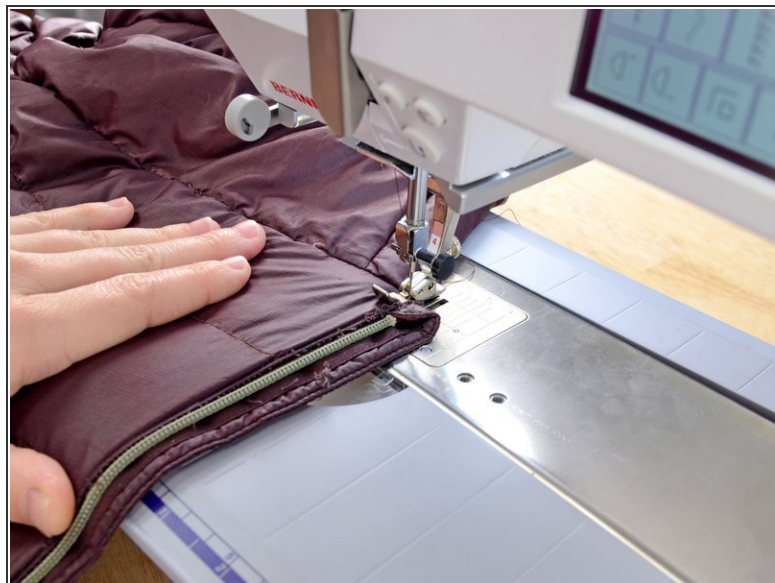
- While holding the zipper in place, move the fabric underneath the zipper out of the way so you're only sewing the zipper to one layer of fabric.

## Step 20



- Install the zipper foot into your sewing machine.
  - Align the jacket and zipper in the sewing machine.
- ⚠ Be sure that there is no fabric behind the zipper webbing before you sew.

## Step 21



- Check your alignment and begin sewing, guiding the fabric along the zipper teeth.
- Go slowly, re-aligning the fabric as you go.

## Step 22



- Continue sewing and re-aligning the zipper as you proceed along the full length of the zipper.

## Step 23



- When you reach the end of the zipper, backstitch to hold your stitches in place and remove the jacket from the sewing machine.

## Step 24



- Align the inside jacket fabric along the backside of the webbing.
- Try to align the stitch holes directly over the stitches you just sewed.

## Step 25



- Align the jacket in the sewing machine, with the zipper webbing facing up.
  - Holding the inside fabric of the jacket in place, sew directly over the original stitching.
  - Go slowly, re-aligning the fabric as you go.
  - Clip the threads, and admire your work!
- ☑ Repeat this guide, ironing the webbing when you're finished, to install the other side of the zipper.